THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not have with me particulars regarding the security that is required for this purpose. I have already said that no difference can be made in the matter of furnishing security which is insisted upon in the case of these loans."

Irrigation Conservancy Subordinates' Association, Tanjore

* 1030 Q.—SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY (on behalf of Sri K. R. Sambandam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Irrigation Conservancy Subordinate and Telephone Clerks' Association, Madras Public Works Department, Tanjore, regarding the revision of their basic scale of pay, dearness allowance, cycle allowance, etc.; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Attention is invited to the answer to starred Legislative Assembly Question No. 945 by Sri S. Venkatarama Ayyar, M.L.A., given on 26th February 1955."

Adulteration in foodstuffs

* 1031 Q.—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the various kinds of adulteration in foodstuffs, that were detected in 1953, in Madras State;

(b) the number of cases detected; and

(c) the amount of fines collected?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" A statement [a] is laid on the table of the House."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" As the merchants are not afraid of adulterating foodstuffs as they earn more profit than the fine they have to pay for it, will the Government come forward to punish them severely and send them to jail? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The Government cannot punish them. It is only the magistrate that can punish them."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Central Government have recently passed legislation for increasing the imposition of fine and making the punishment more deterrent."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" Are the Government aware that a cheap variety of oil called the white oil—which is a mineral oil—is mixed with coconut oil and other edible oils? Will the Government take steps to ban such adulteration? "

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[a] Printed as Appendix on page 314 infra.

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. It seems to be a mineral oil which is also sometimes mixed with coconut oil. The step to be taken in this matter is to send a sample of it for analysis and then punish the offender."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Are the offenders men or women? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Offenders are both men and women. Probably there are more women offenders." (Laughter.)

9-10 a.m. SRI M. R. RAMACHANDRAN :—" Sir, milk is adulterated and coffee powder also is adulterated and when these two are mixed does the case get complicated and is the punishment enhanced? "

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Sir, the Corporation of Madras has frequently, year in and year out, been bringing to the notice of the Government that adulteration of foodstuffs has increased chiefly because the fines have been going down from an average of Rs. 50 to Rs. 20 now. The Corporation has also made representations to the Government that a Special Magistrate may be appointed for hearing the cases brought up by the municipality. May I know whether the Government have considered this suggestion? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, a separate question may be put."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, are the Government aware that very often cases are brought against petty dealers in collusion with them for statistical purposes and also to cover big dealers? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, I have no such information. The hon. Member can kindly give me the information he has at his disposal."

SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—" Sir, is there any basis for the inference of the Hon. Minister that women are more responsible for these offences of adulteration than men? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, I am left to infer this from the question of the hon. Member from Pudukottai."

Closure of the Agricultural Demonstrator's Office, Kanhangad

* 1932 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Agricultural Demonstrator's Office at Kanhangad, South Kanara, was closed from 1st December 1954; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.